

## ANNEX 1: PROGRESS TOWARDS PROGRAM INDICATORS

Project title and number	Beyond Impact Measurement: Fostering inclusion through the "Poverty Stoplight" - 108797-001
Period of reference for the report (mm/yyyy – mm/yyyy)	03/2018 - 06/2020
Date of assessment	June 30, 2020

This annex was created to monitor the immediate and intermediate outcomes of research projects funded by the Employment and Growth program. These indicators will track the research projects' progress toward the achievement of the program targets approved by IDRC's board in 2015. This exercise is for IDRC internal reporting only.

This form is meant to be filled out by grantees each time a technical report is submitted. Please provide quantitative and qualitative responses based on actual achievements (and not targets) on all relevant questions below. Make sure that all stated results are explained in a succinct narrative text.

It is important to note that research projects are not supposed to score on all indicators; therefore it is normal that a lot of them remain blank.

### 1. Outcomes – Positioning to inform policy and practice

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#### 1.1 Has this project been used to influence and inform policies/programs that promote women and youth's economic empowerment? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain:

A key goal of the Poverty Stoplight is the empowerment of women. The updated Poverty Stoplight tool has been used in Fundación Paraguaya's microfinance program and in our Cerrito program, as well as by many other implementing organizations with that goal in mind. To give a specific example, within Fundación Paraguaya's microfinance program the needs established through the updated data collection tool lead to the creation of new credit project lines.

Another way of promoting women economic empowerment was through research in collaboration with a doctoral researcher at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. The main objective of the research was to test whether participation of the Poverty Stoplight program increases agency, empowerment and aspiration of the microfinance clients. The research project found evidence that participants could increase their critical and collective agency, while also indicating room for further improvement.

#### 1.2 Has this project been used to incentivize policies and program to use an inclusive business approach?

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain:

The Poverty Stoplight has been used to incentivize CSR programs that start from measuring employee's poverty at a multidimensional level, thus being able to develop programs that tackle specific deprivations. As of June 2020, there are 251 active companies around the world using the Poverty Stoplight.

**1.3 Has this project been referenced in national or international policies and practices? ☒ Yes ☐ No**

If yes, please explain:

The Ministry of Justice in Paraguay has implemented the PS since 2017 with women who are imprisoned. This project has been interrupted due to changes in the Government, but we have now renewed conversations and are working on a renovation of the contract. The updated version will be informed by the preliminary results of the studies carried out with this grant. Other examples of public institutions using the Poverty Stoplight in Paraguay include the National Development Bank, the Ministry of Labour, and the Banks Pension Fund.

In February 2020, the "Elimination of Poverty" Law was presented in Congress. The law is rooted in the lessons learnt from the application of the Poverty Stoplight, and seeks to involve the Paraguayan Government with organizations and companies that wish to build a better future for the country. The main objective of the law is to redefine the way poverty is measured, unify the diverse government aid programs to help the vulnerable sector, create a "field advisor" program for the public sector employees that register the neediest families and create a Social Council for poverty elimination.

In terms of international governments, the Ministry of Agriculture of Ecuador is piloting the Poverty Stoplight with farmers in different parts of the country. This project is possible because of the updated, more robust indicators we have been developing with this project.

**1.4 Does this project have stories of policy makers actively engaged in discussing issues at policy or other events? ☒ Yes ☐ No**

If yes, please provide names, dates and contexts:

The project has mainly sought to engage policy makers through the Cerrito Project. In order to achieve greater impact, FP has signed agreements with institutions like the National Institute for the Indigenous Population (INDI), the Ministry of Children and local municipalities to articulate efforts and engage these institutions at intersectorial meetings.

In terms of the business sector, we have collaborated with the Ministry of Women in Paraguay, which supported "Anive" a campaign to prevent violence against women, that was organised by the Network of Companies that implement the Poverty Stoplight.

## **2. Outcomes – Positioning for scale**

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**2.1 Has this project contributed to the development or implementation of innovative business tools, strategies and financial products to facilitate access to economic opportunities? ☒ Yes ☐ No**

If yes, please explain:

Since its inception, the Poverty Stoplight has allowed implementers to develop solutions aimed at facilitating access to economic opportunities. Some of the examples include training to develop business plans, to increase abilities, and microcredits. Furthermore, the PS in its application with private businesses is encouraging companies to develop poverty elimination plans for their employees. Over the duration of the project, and with the help of the materials developed through this project, the reach of the PS into the business world could be expanded. As of June 2020, 251 companies worldwide have implemented the PS program.

**2.2 Has this project being scaled up or expanded into new areas/countries? Or is it planning to? ☒ Yes ☐ No**

If yes, please explain:

By June of 2020, this project has reached over 30 countries, with 251 companies and 112 non-profits implementing it both inside and outside of the country. These countries include Argentina, Armenia, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, Tanzania, Uganda, United Kingdom, and United States.

In Paraguay, the Poverty Stoplight for communities has been taken to regions like the Paraguayan Chaco, reaching populations that have been historically excluded due to geographic and the ethnic reasons. We have also expanded within Paraguay's countryside, reaching to departments of San Pedro, Cordillera, Paraguari and Boqueron. Poverty Stoplight has already started working to expand in other countries such as Saudi Arabia, Estonia. In the United States, a new branch has recently opened to provide further support to our current partners in that country and continuously expand to other States.

**2.3 Is this project partnering with institutions, agencies, banks and advisory groups engaged in discussing research results on financial inclusion? ☒ Yes ☐ No**

If yes, please provide names and contexts:

The Poverty Stoplight program started in Fundación Paraguaya's microfinance arm in an attempt to address poverty more holistically. It is still being implemented in this context. Opportunity International, in collaboration with IPS and academic researchers, are currently rolling out a multi-year study with our microfinance program to test whether *micro finance plus* is effective in reducing poverty, part of our "plus" being the Poverty Stoplight. The preliminary results from the studies co-financed by this IDRC grant have informed the study design. Through this research, Opportunity International and the MFI World Vision International have become aware of the Poverty Stoplight, enriching the debate on financial inclusion.

**2.4 Has this project allowed women and youth to have access to finance mechanisms and financial inclusion?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please provide numbers and explanations:

Through indicators that address indicators such as income above poverty line, savings, and access to credit, the PS is able to identify specific deprivation and develop solutions targeted at them. As a microfinance institution, FP has offered loans to women clients that have identified deprivations in those areas, as well as connecting them to financial institutions that offer other financial products, such as insurance and savings. In terms of the microfinance program in Paraguay, at the beginning of 2019, 45% of clients were in “red” or “yellow” in the family saving indicator. With mentoring, by the end of 2019, 31% of clients in this indicator remained in “red” and “yellow”.

### 3. Outcomes – Strengthening of evidence base

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#### 3.1 Has this project been promoted so far in media instances (press releases, blogs, articles)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain and provide dates and web links:

As detailed in the technical report, 30 articles about the Poverty Stoplight have been released in international media and blogs. Some of the links are provided below:

- OZY. September 2018. “Self evaluation programs help pull families from poverty”.  
<https://www.ozy.com/presidential-daily-brief/pdb-89555/how-to-89569>
- Techworld. June 2018. “Tech in the North East: best new startups in 2018”.  
<https://www.techworld.com/startups/tech-in-north-east-best-new-startups-in-2018-3679205/>
- Reset. March 2018. “Poverty Stoplight: Eine App, die den Armutsstatus von Familien ermittelt – und ihnen konkret hilft”. <https://reset.org/blog/poverty-stoplight-eine-app-die-den-armutsstatus-familien-ermittelt-%E2%80%93-und-ihnen-konkret-hilft-03>
- Medium. January 2019. “Disrupting poverty: How Signal took the Poverty Stoplight into the UK”.  
<https://medium.com/poverty-stoplight/disrupting-poverty-how-signal-took-the-poverty-stoplight-into-the-uk-6f1814ecf0b9>
- Business Socialista. February 2020. “A new perspective on Poverty in Paraguay”.  
<https://www.businesssocialista.com/paraguay-fundacionparaguaya/>

The project has been also promoted in Paraguayan traditional media:

- ABC Color. September 2018. “¿Qué es el Semáforo de Eliminación de Pobreza?”.  
<http://www.abc.com.py/edicion-impresa/suplementos/economico/que-es-el-semaforo-de-la-pobreza-1745345.html>
- La Nación. July 2018. “Exportando el Semáforo a Inglaterra, Singapur, Papúa Nueva Guinea y EEUU”.  
<https://www.lanacion.com.py/foco/2018/07/03/exportando-el-semaforo-a-ingles-terra-singapur-papua-nueva-guinea-y-eeuu/>
- La Nación. March 2020. “Ley de Eliminación de la Pobreza” será presentada ante al Congreso.  
<https://www.lanacion.com.py/politica/2020/03/05/ley-de-eliminacion-de-la-pobreza-sera-presentada-ante-el-congreso/>

To view more articles, access [here](#).

### 3.2 How many peer-reviewed publications (peer-reviewed books and chapters, articles, monographs) were submitted or accepted so far?

Please specify titles, authors, web links and confirm status (submitted or accepted):

We have submitted two articles for publication:

1. Hammler, K., & Pane Solis, J. C. (2018). Overcoming Poverty in Multidimensional Poverty Interventions through Self-assessment and Mentoring. (submitted to *Journal de Ciencias Sociales*; Editor response: revise and resubmit)
2. Tellez, N., Ramos, N., & Hammler, K. (2020). *El efecto del Semáforo en la agencia de las familias de la comunidad de Cerrito Benjamín Aceval*. (submitted to Revista de la Sociedad Científica del Paraguay; no editor response yet)

### 3.3 How many policy briefs were produced so far?

Please specify titles, authors and web links:

The project has not produced any policy briefs.

## 4. Outcomes – Building capacity of researchers

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### 4.1 Has this project helped your organisation (or implementation partners) to be recognized as a leader in its field? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please explain:

The Poverty Spotlight program has been receiving more and more attention and name recognition. This is exemplified in that in December 2018, Fundación Paraguaya received the Juscelino Kubitschek Award from the Inter-American Development Bank, being recognised as the NGO with the greatest impact in Latin American and the Caribbean for its work with the Poverty Spotlight. For more information about the award, visit:

<https://www.iadb.org/en/news/idb-announces-winners-juscelino-kubitschek-visionaries-awards>

In 2020, Fundación Paraguaya received an international award “Viva - Schmidheiny”, from the organization “Viva Idea”. This award goes to entrepreneurs and organizations in Latin America for their positive social impact. From the organization, it is a recognition of the 35 years of Fundación Paraguaya’s work in the continuous social transformation within the country, focusing on poverty elimination. For more information about the award, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vDTbwP7TdIg>

### 4.2 Has this project helped researchers (female/male) to be recognized as thought-leaders and called upon for their inputs? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please provide names and contexts:

### 4.3 Have any researchers from your organization received a prestigious award or participated in high-level committees since the project started? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please explain:

**4.4 Has this project supported graduate students (female/male)? ☒ Yes ☐ No**

If yes, please report on all kind of support (scholarships, training, mentoring) and provide separate numbers for male/female students:

The has supported graduate students (four female Masters Students, one male and one female PhD student) who are interested in doing research about the Poverty Stoplight and its effects through active collaboration. All of the Masters students did research internships with the Poverty Stoplight program, during which they collaborated on research related to this project. The two PhD students are doing their doctoral research on topics related to this project, and the PS program has supported them by co-funding field work, collaborating in the development of research plans, and providing feedback on results, among others.

**4.5 Has this project supported emerging researchers (females/males) to be trained to build their leadership skills? ☒ Yes ☐ No**

If yes, please explain:

Apart from the research internships mentioned in question 4.4, the Poverty Stoplight methodology team includes three female junior researchers who have collaborated on the research projects related to this project. Over the course of the project, they have received internal training to take on more and more responsibilities in relation to research activities related to this project (and others). One junior researcher became the lead author on a paper on empowerment that emerged from the project and that is currently under review in a national journal.

**5. Outcomes – Enabling partnerships for greater impact**

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**5.1 Has this project permitted the leverage of external funds? ☒ Yes ☐ No**

If yes, please explain and specify the amount and currency:

We were able to leverage USD 1.000.000 from Peery Foundation. Also, Fundación Paraguaya has been able to generate income directly from selling the Poverty Stoplight program to other organisations such as private companies and NGOs around the world. In terms of awards, Fundación Paraguaya has received the Juscelino Kubitschek award from the Inter-American Development Bank, as the NGO with the greatest impact in LAC for its work with the Poverty Stoplight. The prize consisted of USD 100.000.

**5.2 Has this project led to engagement with new partners including the private sector? ☒ Yes ☐ No**

If yes, please specify the partners and the nature of the collaboration:

As mentioned in the technical report, 14 partners around the world are implementing the Poverty Stoplight. These include MFIs, NGOs and social enterprises. Additionally, our annual event, Cerrito Forum, has allowed us to engage with different stakeholders in discussions around poverty elimination. The last event brought 165 participants, 40% of them from outside of the country.

Not only did these spaces provide discussion around poverty elimination and new ideas to innovate, but because of the Poverty Stoplight's solid relations with its partners, opportunities to scale up was possible through the tool's improvement as well as research. We sought support from our partners in Colombia and Chile to align the Global MPI to the Poverty Stoplight and conducted research in Argentina with the help of Fundación Irradia, México with USEM and the United Kingdom through Signal.